Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 03109 041721Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------041724Z 054432 /44
O 041645Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2773

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR MOPS CG AO
SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: COPING WITH MOBUTU

REF: KINSHASA 3040

1. IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL DAYS SINCE I HAVE MET WITH MOBUTU. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE IS GATHERING EVIDENCE THAT HE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DEPRESSED BY WHAT HE VIEWS AS OUR FAILURE TO SUPPORT HIM IN HIS HOUR OF NEED. WHILE I THINK HE PRETTY WELL UNDERDTANDS THE REASONS WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RESPOND TO HIS REQUESTS FOR MILITARY HARDWARE, I SUSPECT THAT WHAT IS REALLY BEGINNING TO BOTHER HIM IS OUR RELUCTANCE EVEN TO DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR HIS REGIME. AND, AS WE SAW IN 1975, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH FOR HIM TO JUMP TO SOME PRETTY EXTREME CONCLUSIONS REGARDING OUR INTENTIONS.

2. I HAVE RECOMMENDED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES THAT WE SEEK TO LESSEN OUR PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION WITH MOBUTU BUT AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUE TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH HIM THROUGH PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS. AMONG THE OBVIOUS REASONS FOR DOING SO IS TO MAKE SURE HE HAS A CORRECT, CLEAR VIEW OF OUR ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS AND IS NOT LED ASTRAY EITHER BY THE WILD RUMORS THAT ABOUND OR THE INTERPRETATIONS OF OUR POLICIES WHICH ARE OFTEN CONVEYED TO HIM BY OTHERS -- INCLUDING THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS -- AND WHICH CAN BE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINSHA 03109 041721Z

QUITE SELF-SERVING. ALREADY, FOR EXAMPLE, MOBUTU HAS RECEIVED WORK VIA UNSPECIFIED FRENCH CHANNELS THAT THE SECRETARY'S PARIS CONSULTATIONS REVEALED THE US IS NOT INCLINED TO HELP ZAIRE.

3. I BELIEVE I SHOULD SEE MOBUTU VERY SOON AND TELL HIM WHAT WE REPEAT WE WANT HIM TO KNOW ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN PARIS, INCLUDING THE MEETING WITH GISCARD. IF AT THE SAME TIME I CAN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

GIVE HIM AT LEAST SOME IDEA OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S THINKING WITH RESPECT TO ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE, THAT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO CLARIFY THE NOTION HE SEEMS TO HAVE THAT WE'VE WASHED OUR HANDS COMPLETELY OF THE CURRENT CRISIS. (MY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL LOW-KEY, NON-LETHAL AID WERE SENT REFTEL.) FINALLY, BY WAY OF ENCOURAGING MOBUTU TO PURSUE THE DIPLOMATIC TRACK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHOW MOBUTU THAT WE OURSELVES REMAIN ACTIVE IN A SUPPORTIVE ROLE.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON ABOVE POINTS.
CUTLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PERSONAL OPINION, INVASIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA03109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770116-1044
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770492/aaaadbxi.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a83b01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 3040
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2909859
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHABA INVASION: COPING WITH MOBUTU
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, AO, US, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a83b01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009